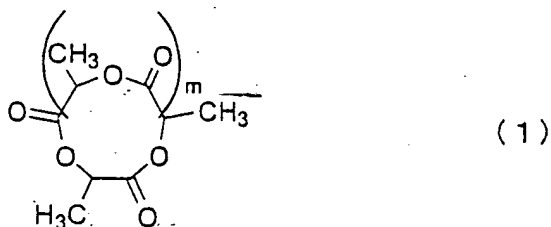


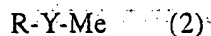
## ABSTRACT

The object of the present invention is to provide a novel method for effectively producing a cyclic lactic acid oligomer, and a cyclic lactic acid oligomer produced by the method. According to the present invention, there is provided a method for producing a cyclic lactic acid oligomer represented by the following formula (1):



wherein m represents an integer of 1 to 30,

wherein lactides are polymerized in the presence of an alkali metal compound represented by the following formula (2):



wherein R represents an aliphatic group, aromatic group,  $-\text{Si}(\text{R}^{10})(\text{R}^{11})(\text{R}^{12})$ ,  $-\text{CH}(\text{R}^{20})\text{CONR}^{21}\text{R}^{22}$  or  $-\text{CH}(\text{R}^{30})\text{COOR}^{31}$ , wherein each of  $\text{R}^{10}$ ,  $\text{R}^{11}$  and  $\text{R}^{12}$  independently represents an aliphatic or aromatic group,  $\text{R}^{20}$  represents an aliphatic group, each of  $\text{R}^{21}$  and  $\text{R}^{22}$  independently represents a hydrogen atom, aliphatic group or aromatic group,  $\text{R}^{30}$  represents an aliphatic group, and  $\text{R}^{31}$  represents a hydrogen atom, aliphatic group or aromatic group;

Y represents  $-\text{O}-$ ,  $-\text{S}-$  or  $-\text{NR}^{40}-$ , wherein  $\text{R}^{40}$  represents a hydrogen atom, aliphatic group or aromatic group; and

Me represents an alkali metal; and,

a cyclic lactic acid oligomer produced by the above production method.